

MALTESE PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION ON THE BILL REGULATING IVF

The Extraordinary General Meeting of the Maltese Paediatric Association of the 12th October 2012 notes that:

1. worldwide, multifetal pregnancies (twins, triplets and quadruplets) are associated with increased neonatal deaths and brain damage in children;
2. in Malta, as a direct result of many years of unregulated practice in the private sector of transferring more than two fertilised eggs in any single IVF procedure, an excessive number of multifetal pregnancies has given rise to an excessively high rate of neonatal deaths, disabling impairment in children and human suffering;
3. a unanimous resolution dated July 21, 2005 by the Association urging the Government to effectively regulate the practice of IVF and limit the number of embryos transferred in any single IVF procedure to a maximum of two has gone unheeded by the authorities for over 7 years;
4. the Minister of Justice and Minister for Health have moved for debate in the House of Representatives the draft Embryo Protection Bill.

While being supportive and sympathetic to the suffering of couples seeking IVF, and as a foremost professional body safeguarding the health of children in the Maltese islands, the Malta Paediatric Association unanimously resolves that:

- A. the initiative taken by the Minister of Justice and Minister for Health to effectively regulate IVF in Malta is highly commendable;
- B. all members of the House of Representatives should ensure that the Embryo Protection Bill shall limit to a maximum of two the number of fertilised oocytes or embryos which may be lawfully transferred in any single IVF procedure in order to minimise the risk of medical complications in the woman and newborn infants.

Prof Thomas Attard
President
12th October 2012

Dr Juanita Debattista
Secretary
12th October 2012